

We claim:

1. A method for broadcasting a message in a wireless network, the method including the steps:

a) receiving a message notice that a message to be broadcast by the wireless network is to follow and instructions designating a geographic area associated with the message broadcast;

b) transmitting the message notice to one or more mobile stations associated with the designated geographic area;

c) receiving the message to be broadcast;

d) broadcasting the message over a broadcast channel associated with the wireless network and the designated geographic area;

e) receiving a termination notice associated with the message broadcast;

f) terminating the message broadcast in response to receiving the termination notice; and

g) transmitting the termination notice to the one or more mobile stations.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are received from an emergency alert system (EAS).

3. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the message is associated with at least one of an emergency action notification, an emergency action termination, a national information center message, a national periodic test, a monthly test, a weekly test, an administrative action, an avalanche warning, an avalanche watch, a blizzard warning, a child abduction emergency, a civil danger warning, a civil emergency warning, a coastal flood warning, a coastal flood watch, a dust storm warning, an earthquake warning, an evacuation immediate condition, a fire warning, a flash flood warning, a flash flood watch, a flash flood statement, a flood warning, a flood watch, a flood statement, a hazardous materials warning, a high wind warning, a high wind watch, a hurricane warning, a hurricane watch, a hurricane statement, a law enforcement warning, a local area emergency, a network message notification, a 911 telephone outage emergency, a nuclear power plant warning, a practice/demo

warning, a radiological hazard warning, a severe thunderstorm warning, a severe thunderstorm watch, a severe weather statement, a shelter in place warning, a special marine warning, a special weather statement, a tornado warning, a tornado watch, a tropical storm warning, a tropical storm watch, a tsunami warning, a tsunami watch, a volcano warning, a winter storm warning, and a winter storm watch.

4. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a presidential message, a local area message, a state message, and a national information center message.

5. The method as set forth in claim 2 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a weather service agency, an emergency management agency, a law enforcement agency, a security agency, and a public office.

6. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are received from at least one of a broadcast network, a cable network, a program supplier, an AM broadcast station, an FM broadcast station, a low power FM (LPFM) broadcast station, a TV broadcast station, a class A (CA) TV station, a low power TV (LPTV) station, a cable system, a wireless cable system, a multipoint distribution service (MDS) station, a multichannel multipoint distribution service (MMDS) station, and an instructional television fixed service (ITFS) station.

7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a weather news report, a headline news report, a traffic news report, an entertainment segment, and a promotional advertisement.

8. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are received by a public switched telephone network.

9. The method as set forth in claim 8 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are communicated from the public switched telephone network to a one or more mobile switching centers.

10. The method as set forth in claim 9 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are communicated from the one or more mobile switching centers to one or more base stations associated with the designated geographic area, each base station associated with a cell of the wireless network.

11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the message notice and termination notice are transmitted from the one or more base stations to the one or more mobile stations.

12. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein the message is broadcast from the one or more base stations to the one or more mobile stations.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1, between steps b) and c), the method further including:

h) at the one or more mobile stations, activating a message notice cue in response to receiving the message notice; and

between steps d) and e), the method further including:

i) at any of the one or more mobile stations, responding to activation of one or more control buttons to connect the corresponding mobile station to the to the broadcast channel to receive the broadcast message.

14. The method as set forth in claim 13 wherein the message notice cue is at least one of a visual indicator, an audible tone, and a vibration frequency.

15. The method as set forth in claim 1, further including:

h) at the one or more mobile stations, activating a message termination cue in response to receiving the termination notice.

16. The method as set forth in claim 15 wherein the message termination cue is at least one of a visual indicator, an audible tone, and a vibration frequency.

17. A method for broadcasting a message in a wireless network, the method including the steps:

a) at one or more mobile switching centers, receiving a message notice that a message to be broadcast by the wireless network is to follow, receiving instructions designating a geographic area associated with the message broadcast, and communicating the message notice to one or more base stations associated with the designated geographic area;

b) at the one or more base stations, transmitting the message notice to one or more mobile stations associated with the designated geographic area;

c) at the one or more mobile stations, activating a message notice cue in response to receiving the message notice;

d) at the one or more mobile switching centers, receiving the message to be broadcast and communicating the message to the one or more base stations;

e) at the one or more base stations, broadcasting the message over a broadcast channel associated with the wireless network and the designated geographic area;

f) at any of the one or more mobile stations, responding to activation of one or more control buttons to connect the corresponding mobile station to the broadcast channel to receive the broadcast message;

g) at the one or more mobile switching centers, receiving a termination notice associated with the message and communicating the termination notice to the one or more base stations;

h) at the one or more mobile switching centers, terminating the message broadcast in response to receiving the termination notice;

i) at the one or more base stations, transmitting the termination notice to the one or more mobile stations; and

j) at the one or more mobile stations, activating a message termination cue in response to receiving the termination notice.

18. The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are received from an emergency alert system (EAS).

19. The method as set forth in claim 18 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a presidential message, a local area message, a state message, and a national information center message.

20. The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a weather news report, a headline news report, a traffic news report, and a promotional advertisement.

21. A wireless network to augment a telecommunication system by broadcasting a message from the telecommunication system to mobile stations associated with the wireless network, the wireless network including:

- a means for receiving a message notice that the message to be broadcast by the wireless network is to follow and instructions designating a geographic area associated with the message broadcast;

- a means for transmitting the message notice to one or more mobile stations associated with the designated geographic area;

- a means for receiving the message to be broadcast;

- a means for broadcasting the message over a broadcast channel associated with the wireless network and the designated geographic area;

- a means for receiving a termination notice associated with the message;

- a means for terminating the message broadcast in response to receiving the termination notice; and

- a means for transmitting the termination notice to the one or more mobile stations.

22. The wireless network as set forth in claim 21 wherein the message notice, message, and termination notice are received from an emergency alert system (EAS).

23. The wireless network as set forth in claim 22 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a presidential message, a local area message, a state message, and a national information center message.

24. The wireless network as set forth in claim 21 wherein the message is associated with at least one of a weather news report, a headline news report, a traffic news report, and a promotional advertisement.

25. The wireless network as set forth in claim 21, further including:  
at the one or more mobile stations, a means for activating a message notice cue in response to receiving the message notice, and  
at any of the one or more mobile stations, a means for responding to activation of one or more control buttons to connect the corresponding mobile station to the broadcast channel to receive the broadcast message.

26. The wireless network as set forth in claim 21, further including:  
at the one or more mobile stations, a means for activating a message termination cue in response to receiving the termination notice.